

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The application relates to antibody granules and methods preparing thereof. See page 2, line 34 – page 3, line 7 of the specification. It has now surprisingly been found that it is possible to incorporate antibodies into detergent compositions in a stable manner if the antibodies are granulated with simple salts, such as sodium or potassium salts. This is the converse to granulation of enzymes, whereby complicated measures have to be taken in the granulation technology in order to provide the required stability and the lifetime of the enzyme. Moreover, it was surprisingly found the antibody activity was improved when they were stored in the granulated form, as compared to common protein storage methods. This therefore imparts a substantially improved lifetime of the antibody and its associated performance in a powdered form or product form. See page 2, lines 18-31 of the specification.

The claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hauwermaeiren et al. (WO 98/06811).

The Examiner has contacted the applicant's attorney on March 8, 2004 with an offer of an amendment which would place this application in condition for allowance: specifically, to incorporate claim 3 into claim 1. Unfortunately, due to the timing of Examiner's schedule on this application and by the time the applicants responded, (next business day), the Examiner had already written up and mailed the Office Action. Applicants are grateful to the Examiner for the indication of the allowable subject matter and have submitted the present amendment in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Applicants respectfully request its entry into the record since it places the application in condition for allowance. See MPEP §714.12 (Amendment After Final Rejection): "Any amendment that will place the application either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered"

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be allowed to issue.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,


Rimma Mitelman
Registration No. 34,396
Attorney for Applicant(s)

RM/sa
(201) 840-2671